1851
(23)

PROCEEDINGS IN THE LEGISLATURE OF NEW BRUNSWICK.

House of Assembly, April, 5, 1851.

[*Extract from the Journal.*]

"On motion of Mr. Gray:—

Whereas the attention of this House had been called by a Message of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor to a Despatch from the Right Honorable Earl Grey, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, with several documents accompanying the same, relative to the Railway formerly proposed between Halifax and Quebec, upon which it is desirable that the immediate action of this House should be taken; therefore

"1st. Resolved, That this House fully responds to the sentiments and opinions expressed by Earl Grey in his Despatch to Lord Elgin dated 14th March 1851,—"That the construction of "a Railway from Halifax to Quebec is calculated greatly to "advance the Commercial and Political interests both of the "British Provinces of North America and of the Mother "Country," and "that the time is at length arrived when this "great National enterprise may be undertaken;"—but they learn with regret that in a work now admitted to be of "such great importance to the British Empire," Her Majesty's Government is not prepared to contribute any portion of the funds necessary for its construction, and should, as a condition precedent to the Imperial guarantee, require these Colonies to pledge their whole available Revenues to build the same at their own expense."

"2d. Resolved, That while this House will adhere with strict fidelity to the pledges given to Her Majesty by the Joint Address of the Houses of Legislature of this Province, in the Session

of 1849, and the Address of the House of Assembly in the Session of 1850, guaranteeing to her Majesty, for the purposes of the Railroad from Halifax to Quebec, "all the ungranted "Lands through which the said Road might pass, to the extent "of ten miles on each side, to be disposed of in such manner "as may be deemed most advisable to Her Majesty's Govern- "ment, and to secure at the expense of the Provinces a suffi- "cient breadth of way and the necessary Stations over and "upon private property, for the use of the said Road; and to "charge upon the General Revenues of the Province a sum "not exceeding Twenty thousand pounds Currency per annum, "towards paying the interest upon the capital invested in the "said Road, to be paid yearly from and after the completion of "the said Road, and while the same is kept in operation, and "to be continued for a term not exceeding twenty years;"— they desire distinctly to state that the refusal by Her Majesty's Government, as conveyed in the several Despatches of the Right Honorable Earl Grey, bearing date the fifth of April, 1849, and the nineteenth of June, 1850, to undertake the great National work under the pledges made towards the same by Canada, New Brunswick and Nova-Scotia induced the people of this Province to turn their attention to the accomplishment of undertakings which it would be in their power to carry out, and which, from their prospect of more immediate remuneration, would hold out greater inducements to capitalists to embark therein; and that in accordance with the almost unanimous wishes of the people of this Province, as expressed by overwhelming majorities in both Houses of the Legislature, the public credit has been pledged to the sum of Three hundred thousand pounds Sterling, for the building of the European and North American Railway, and the St. Andrews and Quebec Railway, within this Province; and the House cannot adopt the plan suggested in the correspondence between the Hon. Mr. Howe and the Right Honorable Earl Grey, accompanying His Excellency's Message; and is not prepared to pledge the public credit, or the future resources of the Province, further than is set forth in the Address before mentioned, towards building the Great Trunk Line from Halifax to Quebec."

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"3d. Resolved, That this House would view with unqualified disapprobation, any scheme whereby Convicts should be introduced into the Province, either for labor or otherwise."

"4th. Resolved, That in the opinion of this House, the Executive Government of this Province should without delay make urgent application to Her Majesty's Government, for the Royal assent to the Acts passed at the present Session of the Legislature, to facilitate the construction of the European and North American, and the St. Andrews and Quebec Railways respectively."

"5th. Resolved, That the Legislative Council be requested to join in an Address to Her Majesty, founded upon the foregoing Resolutions."

Upon these resolutions, an address to the Crown was founded, in which both Houses joined, and it went to England by the mail which left for England April 15th, having been put through all the usual stages with great celerity.

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